



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING  
(Certified Addiction Counseling)**

***PLEASE SHARE THIS NOTICE WITH COLLEAGUES, EMPLOYERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.***

**Licensure Information:**

- An addiction counselor I or II may practice only under the direct supervision of a person meeting the standards outlined in the regulations.  
[https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Addiction\\_Counselors\\_Regulations.pdf](https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Addiction_Counselors_Regulations.pdf)
- If your information (name, mailing address, email address, phone number, etc.) has changed since your last renewal, please send your new contact information to [david.walker2@dc.gov](mailto:david.walker2@dc.gov). For name changes, please include copy of name change documents (marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.).

**Updated Continuing Education Information for LPC and LGPC:**

In order to renew your license, you must complete the required number of hours for your license type. Below is a detailed outlined of the various CE requirements for the Certified Addiction Counseling license types regulated by the Board of Professional Counseling.

The public health priorities requirement was established for all health care professions regulated by the Department of Health, with the intent of going into effect starting with the 2018-2020 license cycle. Below are the updated established requirements:

- An applicant for renewal of a license expiring on December 31, 2020, and all subsequent licensure terms, shall complete forty (40) hours of approved continuing education (CEU) during the two (2) year period preceding the date the license expires. CAC licensees participating in their first renewal are not required to complete CEUs.
- At least ten percent (10%) or four (4) hours of the total required CEU shall be in the subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities of the District of Columbia every five (5) years or less frequently as deemed appropriate.
- The following topics have been identified as key public health priorities:

1. Responsible opioid prescribing and effective pain management;
  2. Nutrition and obesity prevention;
  3. Identifying and reporting abuse (child and adult), neglect (child and adult), human trafficking, and domestic violence;
  4. Sexual health (including taking sexual history, discussing sexual experiences with patients, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), HPV vaccines, connections to cancer, latent tuberculosis, safe sex, and birth control);
  5. Ethics and appropriate patient interactions (i.e. boundaries, patient privacy, and communications including telehealth);
  6. Smoking, vaping, and tobacco (including dangers, smoking cessation, and non-smoke tobacco products);
  7. Preparing your patients for an emergency and handling vulnerable populations in an emergency;
  8. Identifying impairment (physical or mental) in patients and providers (including complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act);
  9. Vaccinations (including legal requirements and appropriate exemptions); and,
  10. Implicit bias, cultural competence and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in health and health care.
- Two (2) hours of CEU of the forty (40) hours are **\*required** in cultural competence and appropriate clinical treatment specifically for individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, queer, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
  - Must complete six (6) CEU in ethics.
  - Must complete four (4) CEU in trauma counseling.
  - Ethics and trauma counseling continuing education credits must be earned in a face to face classroom setting.
  - A maximum of six (6) CEU of the forty (40) CEU may be taken online.

- Proof of successful completion shall be submitted within thirty (30) days after it is requested by the Board.

The new requirement regarding the four (4) hours of CE in the subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities are not required to be specific separate courses or classes, but may be included within courses/classes the health care practitioner has completed. As an example – Nutrition and Obesity Prevention may have been discussed during a 1 or more hour(s) course on diabetes; Ethics and Appropriate Patient Interaction may have been discussed during a 1 or more hour(s) class; Smoking, Vaping, and Tobacco may have been discussed in a course regarding the effects of such products on ocular health. The Board of Professional Counseling wants our licensees to be aware that many courses or classes taken in the past and in the future will address the priorities as listed above, and are therefore acceptable to meet the requirement.

**\*Please note that the required 2 hours of CE for the LGBTQ cultural competence requirement are *NOT* included as part of the public health priorities, and must be completed in addition to those requirements.**

**Board Information:**

- If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact the Mayor's office of Talent and Appointments: <https://motaboardstheresumator.com/apply/>.
- The public is invited to attend the Open Session of Board meetings, which are held the second Friday of every month (except August) at 10:00 a.m. at 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Second Floor, Washington, DC, 20002. View the web page at <https://doh.dc.gov/node/160252> for agendas and the meeting schedule.

**Questions for the Board:** Contact Mr. David Walker, Health Licensing Specialist, at [david.walker2@dc.gov](mailto:david.walker2@dc.gov)